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BACKGROUND

TREATY ARTICLE 17, OTHERS

I. Article 17 of the treaty agrees that Austria shall:

- A. Maintain a defensive force "closely restricted to meeting tasks of an internal character and local defense of frontiers."
- B. Ground forces, including frontier guards, anti-aircraft troops, gendarmerie and river gendarmerie, limited to total 53,000 men.
- C. Air force limited to 90 planes, of which only 70 may be combat types and none bombers: total personnel held to 5,000 men.

II. Articles 18 through 30 of the treaty also deal with defense matters: conditions under which armed forces are to be raised and maintained, eligible personnel (no ex-Nazis),

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types of weapons and aircraft, policy toward possible future German rearmament, etc.

III. Austria would welcome revisions to permit an increase of armed forces by 35,000 men.

IV. UK and French advocate increase.

V. Soviet position not yet definitive. Thus far:

- A. Soviet Ambassador, during talks in Vienna, has declared he is not authorized to discuss any revision of Article 17 and has also opposed changes in the other military articles.
- B. Pravda has sharply attacked increase proposals as attempts to destroy Austrian neutrality, draw her into military bloc.